

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

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R 061040Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5316

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

ZEN AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI 2158

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, ETRD, EALR, GR

SUBJECT: GREECE COMES ONE STEP CLOSER TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC

REF: A) BRUSSELS 06453, B) ATHENS 4279

SUMMARY: DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
IN LUXEMBOURG JUNE 29 HAVE MOVED GREECE A STEP CLOSER TO
FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON FULL MEMBERSHIP, AND IT APPEARS
QUITE LIKELY THAT AT LEAST CEREMONIAL OPENING OF TALKS
WILL BEGIN IN BRUSSELS BEFORE THE END OF JULY. END SUMMARY.

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1. ACCORDING TO THE EC REPRESENTATIVE IN ATHENS, THREE

INTERRELATED DECISIONS AFFECTING GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP EMERGED FROM THE LUXEMBOURG COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING. FIRST, IT WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON IMPROVING THE TERMS OF TURKEY'S ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT ON JULY 21 IN ANKARA, PROVIDING ITALIAN OBJECTIONS TO AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS CAN BE RESOLVED IN THE COUNCIL OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES BY JULY 8. SECOND, OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS ON GREECE'S ENTRY WILL OPEN JULY 27 IN BRUSSELS, IF EC-TURKISH TALKS CAN BEGIN. THEREFORE, BY JULY 8 THE EC SHOULD REACH A DECISION ON BOTH ISSUES. THIRD, THE MINISTERS CAME CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON THE DIVISION OF AID BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY (REFTEL A). ACCORDING TO EC SOURCE HERE, GREECE WILL RECEIVE 280 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (MUA) AND TURKEY BETWEEN 300-310 MUA PROVIDING THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY BEGIN IN JULY. IF THEY ARE DELAYED, HOWEVER, FRANCE RESERVED THE RIGHT TO REOPEN DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. COMMENTING ON THE EC COMMUNIQUE, MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH DEVELOPMENTS ON GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP. HE SAID THAT GREECE IS PREPARED TO START FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS IMMEDIATELY AND WILL BE HAPPY TO BEGIN BEFORE THE AUGUST HOLIDAYS, BUT IF TALKS ARE DELAYED IT WILL NOT BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.

3. BOTH EC REPRESENTATIVE AND COORDINATION MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL VARFIS CONSIDER IT QUITE LIKELY THAT TALKS WILL BEGIN IN JULY. NOW THAT TENTATIVE DECISIONS REGARDING THE SECOND FINANCIAL PROTOCOL AND OPENING OF FORMAL DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED, THEY FEEL IT WILL BE DIFFICULT NOT TO CARRY THEM OUT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, NEGOTIATIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS06739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760259-0872
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760790/aaaadatg.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BRUSSELS 6453, 76 ATHENS 4279
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREECE COMES ONE STEP CLOSER TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EALR, GR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006